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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HATFIELD:

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Interim Annual Medical Report for the year
1947:

J. E. DICKSON, M.B., B.S. (Lond) D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health)

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Council Offices,
HATFIELD, Herts.

<u>1. Statistics:</u>		<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>
Rateable Value at 31st December	175,245	170,520	168,440
Inhabited houses at 31st December	...	5,572	5,312	5,210
The population figure - mid-year (Registrara General) ....	...	22,240	21,420	20,030
Number of deaths from all causes	...	198	198	160
Number of live births:	Legitimate	396	383	289
	Illegitimate	18	24	20
Number of still births:	Legitimate	10	10	8
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Number of deaths under one year:	Legitimate	16	9	10
	Illegitimate	1	1	3
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population		19.83	19.00	15.42
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births ...		23.58	23.98	25.23
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the poplntn:		8.90	9.25	7.99
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births		41.06	24.57	42.07
Death rate of all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	40.40	23.49	34.60
Death rate of all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .	...	54.44	41.66	150.00

The death rate of all infants for England and Wales was 41.0

Of the 17 infant deaths, three were due to prematurity, and eight to congenital defects, and not preventable.

2. Diphtheria Immunisation:

During the year 230 children under five years, were immunised and 32 children over five years. 169 re-inforcing injections were given during the year.

3. Infectious Diseases:

	1947	1946	1945
Poliomyelitis	6	1	-
Scarlet Fever	12 x	14	34
Diphtheria... ..	1 ø	3	1
Whooping Cough	20	22	14
Measles ... ..x	206	54	354
Erysipelas	5	2	1
Pneumonia	22	16	15
Puerperal Pyrexia	29	10	-
Sonne Dysentery... ..	-	-	92
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-
Catarrhal Jaundice	2	-	-

x includes 1 non-civilian. ø includes 2 non-civilians.

4. Tuberculosis:

There were eight deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Pul:	N-Pul:	Pul:	N-Pul:	
On the register at					
31.12.46.	59	18	41	16	133
Removals	18	4	12	1	35
Additions	18	4	6	4	32
On the register at					
31.12.47	59	17	35	19	130

5. Scabies:

During the year, the following cases were treated:

Adults:		Children:	Total:
Male:	Female:		
24	35	45	104

REPORT OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR. J. R. Howarth, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., M.Inst.R.A.

1. Condition of River Lee:

This continues to be the subject of consideration by the various interested authorities.

2. Sewers and Sewer Extensions:

(a) A proposal for the laying of a length of 6" sewer in Bulls Lane, Welham Green, reached the stage of the acceptance of a tender amounting to £772.

(b) It was decided to lay a length of sewer to serve the village of Mill Green and the proposed new houses there.

(c) A scheme for dealing with the surface water from the new concrete runways, and the aerodrome generally was undertaken by the De Havilland Aircraft Company. The construction of a concrete culvert as part of this scheme should go a long way in relieving flooding in the Ellenbrook area.

3. Sewage Disposal Works:

The Sewage Disposal Works at Hatfield, Welham Green, Newgate Street and Essendon, have on the whole functioned satisfactorily throughout the year. Difficulty, however, was experienced when cuts were made in the electricity supply to the pumping stations during the winter. Steps were taken to avoid damage to machinery and plant by visiting each of the stations during the cuts.

A bad report on one sample of effluent from Hatfield, was followed by an inspection of the works by the Council's Consulting Engineers, who reported that the works were quite normal, clean, and receiving careful attention, and certain recommendations for running the works were made, and these were carried out. Samples of effluent taken and analysed showed a satisfactory degree of purification.

Bad samples were also taken at Newgate Street and Cuffloy, and improvements to these works are being undertaken. It is hoped that the Cuffloy works will soon become redundant by being replaced by another scheme.

A petition from Lomsford residents Association, was received, asking for all cesspools in that area to be connected to the main drainage system. There are no main sewers in that area except at Stanborough, where so far 28 cesspools have been abolished and the houses connected to the sewer. A sewerage scheme for Lomsford village, has been agreed in principle, but the Cromer Hyde sewer has been deferred because of the number of houses to be dealt with in relation to the high cost.

A visit by members and officials of all constituent bodies of the Colne Valley Sewerage Board was made in July to the Maple Cross Sewage Disposal Works, when the progress of the work was inspected and the system of purification explained by Engineers of the Board.

A meeting of the officials of constituent Authorities was also held at Watford in September, when it was explained that owing to difficulties of labour and materials the completion of the scheme will take a great deal longer than was anticipated. Local authorities therefore will be called upon to maintain their Sewerage Disposal Works for some years longer. The works affected in the area of the Hatfield Rural District are, Welham Green and Little Heath

4. Refuse Collection:

A fortnightly collection is being satisfactorily maintained throughout the area. The Parishes of Hatfield and Essendon, are covered by the Council's own staff, and the other two Parishes in the District are cleared by contract.

5. Cesspool Emptying:

There are 448 cesspools in the district and the Council operates a cleansing service using a 750 gallon machine with assistance from a Contractor when required. Two free emptyings are given each year with a greater number in areas where the provision of main drainage has been held up or present special difficulty. The number of cesspools cleansed during the year was 394.

6. Building Licensing:

During the year 56 houses were completed by private owners and 10 licences to build were granted.

War destroyed houses re-built, numbered 11.

REPORT OF THE ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

S.W.Wright, A.R., San:I

1. Rural Housing Survey:

The survey of 4,122 houses of approximately £20 rateable value and under was completed. The houses were measured against the Hertfordshire Joint Advisory Committee's "Standard of Fitness", and classified under the following heading.

Class 1: Satisfactory in all respects.

Class 2: In need only of normal maintenance repairs, or other work of a comparatively minor nature (costing up to about £15 at to-days price levels). Included in this category are 823 houses which in addition to maintenance repairs, require expenditure of the above order on the provision of amenities to raise them to the desired standard.

Class 3: In need of major repairs, structural alteration or improvement, the cost of which would be reasonable having regard to the estimated worth of the property and its probable life after reconditioning. Included in this category are 974 houses which, in addition to sanitary defects, lack one or more amenities listed in the standard of fitness. Also under the same heading are 270 houses which would be in Class 1 or 2 but for lack of amenities involving major expenditure.

Class 4 comprises houses shown under 3 or 5, provisionally recommended as suitable for re-conditioning up to Joint Advisory Committee standard and includes 148 houses from Class 5 which on account of size or other considerations, cannot be recommended individually but might, in conjunction with adjoining buildings, be converted into satisfactory dwellings.

Class 5: Houses falling so short of the standard of fitness by reason of sanitary defects, siting or other considerations that they cannot at reasonable expense be raised to the desired standard.

Parish	Houses to be classified.	Houses classified	- - - Classification - - -				
			1	2	3	4	5
Northaw	539	539	117	216	179	(85)	27
North Mymms	753	753	62	296	328	(290)	67
Hatfield	2,666	2,666	228	1,111	1,044	(938)	283
Essendon	164	164	11	47	77	(79)	29
Totals.	4,122	4,122	418	1,670	1,628	(1,392)	406

Of the 406 houses placed in Class V, 148 were in the sub-class VR - poor houses, which taken with adjoining properties (e.g. conversion of a pair of cottages to one cottage complying with the standards) could, be considered for re-conditioning. The cost of repairing VR houses would be high, and some form of grant would be needed. Such conversions would reduce the effective total of properties by 63, and this figure, added to the 258 houses placed in Class V itself, indicates a replacement figure for the district of 321 houses

2. Food Inspection:

The following is a list of foods found to be unsound during 1947. In most cases the food was destroyed, but where possible it was used for pig food or manufacturing purposes. Old war-time stock from canteens is still being discovered, and such items have been marked (c)

<u>Butcher's meat</u>	<u>Wt. in lbs:</u>
Beef	468
Mutton	12
Bacon	75

<u>Tinned Foods</u>	
Corned Beef	192
Other meats	125
Fish	86
Vegetables	284
Fruit	236
Milk	79
c/f.	<u>1,557</u> lbs.

b/f. 1,557

Other Commodities

Eggs	(372)
Black puddings	24
Sultanas	44(c)
Prunes	3(c)
Butter Beans	224(c)
Brown Beans	46(c)
Lentils	36(c)
Barley	121(c)
Semolina	56(c)
Oatmeal	19
Herbs	4(c)
Flour	7(c)
Soya Flour	2(c)
Sugar	146
Tea	41
Biscuits	57
Butter	31
Margarine	24
Chocolate	28
Cocoa	7
Jam	12
Miscellaneous	3

2,492 lbs.

MEMORANDUM OF COUNCIL'S ARCHITECT
on Housing to 31st December 1947.
(J.H.Parker A.R.I.B.A.)

The following Contracts were let during the year:

Birchwood Estate - 26 houses
Welham Green - 19 "

At the commencement of the year it was proposed to commence 382 houses, as follows :-

By Contract 256
By Private builders
under Circ: 92 ... 126

In April, the Ministry announced a restricted programme and the number allocated to the Rural District was 134. In September, the Ministry announced further restrictions limiting the houses to be built to those needed for Agricultural Workers only. The Council accordingly invited tenders for 24 which were submitted to the Ministry who subsequently allocated a further 12 "Airoy" type houses.

In July, the Ministry allocated 100 Aluminium houses to Hatfield, and work on this scheme was commenced in October.

MEMORANDUM OF HOUSING OFFICER.
(Mr. J. E. Hudson)

Details of the housing position at 31st December 1947.

	<u>31/12/46</u>	<u>31/12/47</u>
Number of houses owned by the Council	905	938
Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation ...	91	102
Number of families housed in Huts ...	28	28

Number of families housed during year:

New accommodation	82 x	33) ⁸ 25 ^x ø
Other accommodation	14	11

x - Prefabs: ø Permanent.

Number of housing applications ...	1118	1025
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